Improving quality of roads

514. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have done any research on improvisation of quality of roads built in the country;

(b) the present specification prescribed to achieve the quality;

(c) whether any specific quality contract is exercised in States where monsoons are heavy; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir. Various Research Institutions and Academic Institutions of the Government have done research on improvement of quality of roads built in the country;

(b) Ministry's Specifications for Road and Bridge Works, 2001 (4th Revision) and relevant Indian Roads Congress's publications are the main specifications prescribed to achieve the quality at present.

(c) There is no specific quality contract for heavy monsoon areas.

(d) Does not arise.

Maritime University at Visakhapatnam

515. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested Central Government particularly the Ministry of Shipping to establish Maritime Universities, one in the East Coast i.e. at Visakhapatnam another at West Coast of India;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) A request was received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to establish a Maritime University at Visakhapatnam.

(b) and (c) Government of India is contemplating formation of a Maritime University in India at the earliest. The details including its Location are still being worked out. No time frame, therefore, can be given as of now.

Directions of CAG

516. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CAG has asked the National Highway Authority of India to speed up the construction of the golden quadrilateral project;

(b) if so, the bottlenecks pointed out by the CAG; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) In its Report No. 7 of 2005 presented to the Parliament on 11 May 2005, the CAG has also commented upon delay in execution of projects on the Golden Quadrilateral.

(b) Some of the highlights of the CAG observations in this regard are:

* There was no corporate plan to implement such a large project.
* Deficient planning and inefficient contract management by the design and project consultants contributed to under performance in achievement of the target.

(c) The actions taken by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI)/ Government to expedite implementation of National Highways Development Project (NHDP) are as under:

* A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted to address inter-ministerial and Central States issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting, environment approvals, clearance of road overbridges etc.